



Born in North Vancouver i spent large chunks of my summer and holidays boating with my grandparents through the southern gulf islands. 30 years later having the opportunity to raise my daughter on Pender Island was an opportunity to good to be true and being able to grow a farm and community space at the same time clinched the deal for us.

Our strong sense of community is one of the most unique amenities Pender island has. Never have i seen a group of people unite behind a common cause as I have seen on pender when one of our own gets sick or comes on hard times. There is an incredible volunteer network of folks who daily give their time for the benefit of our community and I've had the pleasure of being a first responder for our fire department

over the last 4 years. Experiencing the sense of community that comes from working with people who share a common vision for community care only helps to reinforce the uniqueness of Pender island.

As a farmer i have seen the first hand challenges a changing climate has brought to an already difficult industry. We need to work towards solutions that lessen the impact on our island resources while allowing us to expand our infrastructure to accommodate housing for the people who need secure homes and that the island needs to staff services.

People are frusterated and disallusioned with more rules and governance. Frankly I believe it is in danger of erroding that very sense of community that makes pender so special. We need to protect our uniqueness and the environment surrounding it while navigating inevitable growth needed to strengthen our infrastructure. Over governance, lack of public consultation, and a seeming disregard for why people moved to this special place have put the Trust and residents at odds. More rules wont fix anything. Community engagement and common sense will.